introduction of new technology for reduced human interference and this is undertaken on a continuous basis on Indian Railways. Anti Collision Device (ACD) developed by Konkan Railway is one such initiative.

(c) and (d) Yes, Sir. The field trials of the ACD on Northern Railway have been completed and certain works of its installation are being planned.

Balurghat-Eklakhi line in West Bengal

434. SHRI NILOTPAL BASU: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) the status of commissioning of Balurghat-Eklakhi line covering Malda and Dakshin Dinajpur Districts of West Bengal and details arising thereof;

(b) whether it is a fact that Railway only plans to operate passenger trains and not goods trains along this new line;

(c) if so, the reasons therefor and whether this will affect the viability of the project;

(d) whether some of the bridges particularly over the river Punarbhaba is much lower than would be warranted in a flood prone district to ensure free movement of boats; and

(e) if so, the details thereof and if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE INTHE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI BANDARU DATTATRAYA): (a) The section between Eklakhi-Gazole has already been commissioned. The line upto Buniadpur is targeted for completion during 2002-2003.

(b) and (c) No, Sir. However, the running of goods trains on this line would depend upon traffic arising.

(d) and (e) The clearances for the bridges have been provided as per the prescribed norms considering the highest flood level. During emergency flood situation, country boats can pass through the bridges, if necessary.